1/15/70

Dear Mary (CCPaul, Gary),

Relate 12, 13, The part of O in NO not printed is the index. Paul has it and will make it available to you, if you'd like. I have only the master copy.

I once borrowed a copy of a different bookx by Marks. It was wild, so wild I believe nothing he says can be accepted without independent confirmation. My recollection of that one is that it was no more than an embroidery on what had been published, of which there has been too much (embroidering by amateurs).

No, I never got the Almanac. The NSRP flyer is the one I had, but is much clearer. Glad to get it and card. It doesn't give the party, or is the flag a recognized symbol?

Penn: I think it is better to 'stay at arm's length'. Boxley has done quite a job on him, and that is only part of it. He's been doing things the Penn I knew 3-4 years ago would be ashamed to do. I fear he has had too many pressures of too many kinds.

To this brief point I've been interrupted four times. Ihhope this makes sense. I sure will appreciate the books.

My disagreement with your theory is rather total. I'd comment, as you ask. First, I think some of the assumptions are warrented based on what was reported in Texas but was not true, such as JFK's declined popularity. It was, I am certain, higher at the time of the ass. than earlier. He had dared do things he earlier feared. Likewise, I do not think the attempt on Truman is what gave him the election. Dewey did. And he was genuinely popular because he came accross as an ordinary guy. Next, I think the plot you visualize is so extraordinarily complicated it presented too many hazards and involved too many people, any one of whom would have been a weak link. And it is the kind of thing that would have been more ruinous than anything ever done by any President. The problems he had, such as the Bay of Pigs, did not adversely influence JFK's popularity. That imporved it because of his handling. In spades for the missle crisis, heralded as a great victory. The off-year elections? His performance was very good, much better than expected or than average. But if Bobby did have such an idea, the timing was way off that long before the election. The time would have been closerx to it. Too much could happen in the interval, including discovery.

I know of no reason to believe Bobby or any of his were responsible for bringing LHO home. But if they had such a scheme, they'd never have picked a man who was such a deplorably bad marksman as the shooter, for it would have come out that he was incapable of the feat. ...Did Bobby override Holland or State? I think State. You can be sure Frances Knight was not privy to such a plot.

I believe that of all the places LHO could have been, the most likely is somewhere near the from door. He certainly was not on the 6th floor. And all the evidence is he didn't bring "his"brifle in. I do not think anyone would have figured they could get acceptance of firecrackers as an attempt on JFK's life, least of all Oswald, who was no dope, and he'd have had all that time to think it over and decide whether or not there was a real attempt, it was hell for him.

There is so much I forget. Did Oswald register surprise at learning the President had been shot or at learning he was to be blamed? I think he knew.

If he was "following instructions" in asking for Ab, he abandoned them very publicly Friday night in asking for anyone from the ACLU. He also did not reject the ABA, just had a different preference. I think there is a different reason for Bobby's silence you'll see in COUP. But he, like all other big men today, was the captive of those upon whom he depended for knowledge and advice.

It seems to me to be an understatement to say that if Bobby had gotten to be President he "could have reopened the whole thing". I am convinced he would have had to because his position would otherwise have been intolerable, which was a great obstacle to his living to do it.

There is nothing of which I am aware to lend any credibility to any part of the Walker-shooting story, beginning with the analysis of the bullet and ending with Scheherezade. Your concluding sentence of this paragraph tells it like it is. He would not have been "so upset and wild-eyed" over the Walker shooting, which he didn't do, and composed at being charged with killing the President.

My recollection may be in error, but it is that LHO got to N.O. 5/25/63, not 5/29. Perhaps deM knew more than Mrs. Auchincloss (I am not aware if he did), and there is much to make one wonder about him, But why was it necessary for anyone to take LHO anywhere? He was capable of going by himself and any plot can always stand fewer plotters by leaving out those not necessary.

If I were planting anybody to be a witness, two of the last three I'd pick would be Markham and Scoggins. The third, Whaley. Fourth, Mrs. Bledsoe. One of the things that makes the thing hard to believe is that anyone would pick out the likes of those, or McWatters, to depend upon for anything, even the time of day, or in Markham's case, the directions, north from east, where she lived.

All we know about Kennedy surmising how easy it would be to kill him comes from my favorite fictioneer, Manchester. But, with the Stevenson affair so fresh in memory, it is not beyond belief that the subject came up in what might be called "natural" conversation. If JFK had not been told of the other known and discounted threats. He had just known of two, remember, 11/2, Chicago, and 11/8, Miami, and there were more.

The man from San Antonio could not have had "Oswald's" Carcano, and without something special, like identification, in mind, please believe me Mary, no one would use that rifle for anything, a good one is that bad.

Who was going to give the FBI "instructions"? I doubt anyone would try that with Hoover, and he is the one who gives them inside. The needed no priming. Their own natural ways took care of everything. Nobody had to give them the line, they heard, read and saw it and they knew what to do. But even then they made a few mistakes, like insisting Connally was hit by a separate bullet and knowing they couldn't account for the anterior neck wound, so they left it out, things like that.

*****Almost everybody wants a theory but me. While I'd like one, I also ignore it. It would be real nice if we could solve the crime. If we do it will be by accident. My effort is not inxx that direction for several reasons. One is that I believe government must do this.*****

I do not think any plotter would have placed any trust in LHO, either. He was a bit too independent, like travelling illegally in the USSR, stipulating his own terms to the embassy-and getting them.....But if there was such a fake plot, especially if, as you seem to think, most of the people came to believe JFK was too "soft on Communism", the last person to be chosen was one with any tinge of the left- especially in the South, where the natural selectees would have been one of the right, the real way to answer the left charge and the real way to make the south feel guilty and sympathetic.

On the basis of what we now know, which is what we have been able to dig up of what little was permitted to be gathered, I think there is no theory anyone can come up with that another cannot shoot down. It doesn't make it easier, another reason I devote my enegries elsewhere.

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I've been meaning to ask you some Texas things. What is the relationship between the Clarks and Foremans, if any? I hear they are close. Foreman had to buy Hanes out to get anything out of the Ray deal, unless he decided to take the case free. As you will see in the book, Hanes and Huie owned all the action.

Many of the people involved in the Texas "Investigation" seem to have had CIA connections, through foundations, etc. Did you do any work on this? Even Sarah Hughes.

You say you have been trying without success to see Curry. What do you expect to get from him? I didn't try, didn't plan to. All I planned to do is what I did, blow his mind. I never believed he was part of any plot. He acted as those who knew him would have expected, from what I've been able to gather. And he is no dope, so he is not about to talk, if he knows anything. I think it was courageous of him, in his position, to say there is no proof who was in that window and to say what little he did about the FBI. He has pretty active survival instincts.

Gotta get to other things.

Best regards,